

REMARKS

This application is a continuation of Serial No. 10/107,119. An Office Action was mailed in the parent case on September 17, 2003, prior to the filing of this continuation application. The following remarks address the comments and rejections found in the Office Action of September 17, 2003.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6 – 8, 14, and 15.

Claims 1 and 17 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 6 – 8. Claim 10 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Claim 8 is amended to clarify the claim language.

Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 4 is amended to more particularly point out the claimed invention.

Claim 13 is amended to correct a spelling error.

New claims 19 – 21 are added. Support for claims 19 – 21 can be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed.

Claims 1, 10, and 17 as amended now require a starch polymer that 1) has a content of amylose of at least 50% by weight, and 2) is modified with at least one of carboxymethyl groups and hydroxypropyl groups.

The rejection of claims 1 – 5 and 10 – 13 under 35 USC 102(e) over Fanta et al., US 6,461,999 is rendered moot by the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claims 1 and 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1 – 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 16 – 18 under 35 USC 102(e) over Stover, WO 02/12414 is also rendered moot by the incorporation of

allowable subject matter into claims 1, 10, and 17. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

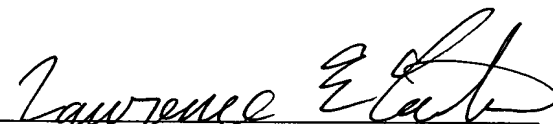
The rejection of claims 17 and 18 under 35 USC 103(a) over Fanta et al. in view of Stover is also rendered moot by the incorporation of allowable subject matter into claim 17. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt, favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

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